

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5876

UNCLAS ROME 2854

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, UN

SUBJ: WFP/FOODGRAIN RESERVES

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WORLD FOOD PROGRAM HAS REQUESTED TRANSMITTAL FOLLOWING MESSAGE: QUOTE. AS YOU ARE ALREADY AWARE THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION HELD IN NEW YORK LAST SEPTEMBER PASSED RESOLUTION A/RES/3362 (SVII) URGING THAT ALL COUNTRIES BUILD UP AND MAINTAIN WORLD FOOD GRAIN RESERVES AS ENVISAGED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE AND THAT PENDING ACTUAL ESTABLISHMENT SUCH RESERVES, COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO DO SO SHOULD EARMARK STOCKS AND/OR FUNDS TO BE PLACED AT THE DISPOSAL OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME AS AN EMERGENCY RESERVE TO STRENGTHEN PROGRAMME'S CAPACITY TO DEAL WITH CRISIS SITUATIONS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION ALSO STATED THAT AIM SHOULD BE A TARGET OF NOT LESS THAN 500,000 TONS TO BE PLACED AT PROGRAMME'S DISPOSAL. IT WILL ALSO BE RECALLED THAT THE PROGRAMME'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE (GGC) DURING ITS 28TH SESSION (SEE DOCUMENT WFP/IGC 28/21 PARA 35) WHILE WELCOMING ABOVE MENTIONED GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION, REQUESTED ME TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO CLARIFY CERTAIN POINTS INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF HOW WFP'S REGULAR PLEDGES WOULD BE AFFECTED BY THE RESERVE AND UNDER WHAT RULES AND PROCEDURES WFP COULD DRAW ON IT. AS YOU MAY BE AWARE THE GOVERNMENTS OF NORWAY AND SWEDEN HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO THE APPEAL IN THIS REGARD BY PLACING AT PROGRAMME'S DISPOSAL CERTAIN QUANTITIES OF GRAIN PART OF WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN SHIPPED TO NEEDY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. WE CONSIDER THIS

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AS VERY GOOD START BUT FEEL UNLESS THERE IS MUCH MORE GENEROUS RESPONSE BY OTHER DEVELOPED COUNTRIES - PARTICULARLY THOSE

PARTICIPATING IN SUBSTANTIAL FOOD-AID PROGRAMMES

- THE OBJECTIVES ENVISAGED UNDER THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION
CANNOT BE ACHIEVED. I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT IMPORTANT URGENT
NATURE THIS MATTER WOULD HAVE ENABLED AUTHORITIES CONCERNED
IN YOUR GOVERNMENT CONSIDER IT FULLY AND THAT APPROPRIATE DECISION
REGARDING QUANTITIES TO BE CHANNELLED THROUGH WFP WOULD HAVE
BY NOW BEEN TAKEN. THEREFORE GRATEFUL BEING INFORMED OF SUCH
DECISION TO ENABLE PROGRAMME MAKE NECESSARY PLANNING FOR
EFFECTIVE UTILIZATION GRAIN AND/OR FUNDS PLACED AT ITS DISPOSAL
WITHIN CONTEXT GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION. IN ORDER ENABLE
ME REPORT OUTCOME TO FORTHCOMING SESSION WFP'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL
COMMITTEE, REQUEST YOUR REPLY NOT LATER THAN ELEVEN MARCH.
AQUINO. UNQUOTE.VOLPE

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